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Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

05-AMCP-0188

MAR 11 2005

Mr. Nicholas Ceto, Program Manager
Office of Environmental Cleanup
Hanford Project Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Boulevard, Suite 5
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

Dear Mr. Ceto:

MODIFY THE DESCRIPTION AND COMPLETION DATE FOR HANFORD FEDERAL FACILITY AGREEMENT AND CONSENT ORDER (TRI-PARTY AGREEMENT INTERIM MILESTONE M-016-68 [300-FF-5 OPERABLE UNIT])

The U.S. Department of Energy, Richland Operations Office (RL) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have agreed to re-evaluate remedial action alternatives to meet the remediation goals identified in the July 1996 Record of Decision (ROD) – primarily, the restoration of the aquifer to drinking water standards within a reasonable timeframe.

Tri-Party Agreement Interim Milestone M-016-68 was established for the delivery of a Focused Feasibility Study/Draft Proposed Plan (FFS/PP) in March 2005 to evaluate remediation technology alternatives. The milestone recognizes that treatability tests may be necessary to prepare the FS/PP. A provision was made in the milestone to delay the FFS/PP if such tests were deemed necessary. "If a treatability test is required, a new milestone for delivery of an updated FFS and PP will be negotiated to accommodate the test and assessment of its results." Discussions at the Unit Manager level have resulted in an understanding supporting the delay of the FFS/PP to provide adequate time to perform additional characterization and to perform treatability tests of selected technologies. Therefore, RL is proposing that Tri-Party Agreement Interim Milestone M-016-68 be modified to reflect the specific deliverables that will be submitted in March 2005, including a work plan for the remaining activities. The proposed remaining work is necessary to address the adequacy of uranium cleanup levels and provide the basis for groundwater remediation decisions. Operable Unit (OU) specific groundwater/contaminant-transport conceptual and numeric models require additional characterization to resolve remaining uncertainties in the conceptual model required to choose and implement a remedial action. Treatability tests will ensure that a technically-sound and defensible PP can be submitted. Significant progress has been made in accomplishing the goal of assessing remedial technologies. RL will submit a document by March 31, 2005, that will include: (1) detailed descriptions of updated conceptual models for the 300 Area uranium plume

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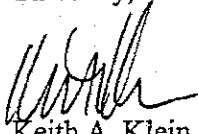
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and the 618-11 tritium plume including characteristics and trends for all previously identified contaminants of potential concern (COPC), (2) an evaluation of the COPC and an updated list of COPC with a path forward for further evaluation of the COPC that are retained, and (3) a work plan submitted as a Tri-Party Agreement Primary Document that describes the scope and schedule for activities leading to the FFS/PP, including a recommended Tri-Party Agreement milestone for the FFS/PP. The March 2005 deliverable will provide data necessary to support the upcoming five-year review of 300-FF-5 ROD and the 300 Area End States Workshop.

The enclosed Tri-Party Agreement change package was developed in consultation with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency staff. As described in the Tri-Party Agreement Action Plan, Section 12.0, "Changes to the Agreement." The Tri-Parties have 14 days following receipt of a signed change package to act on the change package.

If you have questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Matt McCormick, Assistant Manager for the Central Plateau, on (509) 373-9971.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Klein
Manager

AMCP:KMT

Enclosure

cc w/encl:

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Administrative Record (H6-08)